



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
Library Assistants' Association.

Edited by
W. BENSON THORNE,
 Bromley Library, 126 Brunswick Road, E.



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No. 65.

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The Library Assistant:

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 65.

MAY, 1903.

Published Monthly.

MAY MEETING.

By special permission of Sir E. Maunde Thompson, K.C.B., D.C.L., this Meeting will be held at the British Museum on Wednesday, May 13th, when the members will be conducted round the Libraries, by Mr. G. K. Fortescue, Keeper of Printed Books, assisted by his colleagues. Members and friends will gather on the Museum steps at 2.50 p.m., and all who intend being present should not be later, as, after the party have commenced the tour of the Libraries, it will be inconvenient for late arrivals to join. This opportunity of viewing our National Library, under such exceptional circumstances, should not be missed, and we hope to see a good gathering.

APRIL MEETING.

As announced, this Meeting took place at the Shoreditch Public Library, Pitfield Street, N., on Wednesday, 22nd ultimo, and was exceptionally well attended. Mr. W. C. Plant, Borough Librarian, occupied the chair, and expressed his pleasure at seeing the L.A.A. again in Shoreditch. Our Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. E. Roebuck (Stepney), read a thoughtful and exhaustive paper on "Literature for the Blind," which not only interested everybody present, but reflected great credit on the reader for the evident pains he had taken to make the subject as entertaining and instructive as possible. The paper, which will be printed *in extenso* in our next issue, will be invaluable to any seeking information on the subject, and will have the further advantage of being reliable in every respect, written, as it is, by one with much experience and practical observation in all its details. Mr. Plant reviewed the paper, and Messrs. Chambers, Cawthorne, Harris, Hatcher, Philip, Rees, and Savage, added their views and experiences on several points. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Roebuck was moved from the chair, and seconded by Mr. Rees, who also proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Plant for his presence and chairmanship. This was seconded by

Mr. Chambers, and carried unanimously. After the meeting the members and friends examined with interest a number of examples of Moon, Braille, and other embossed types, together with embossed maps, writing appliances, and other items Mr. Roebuck had brought to illustrate his paper.

THE COMMITTEE.

In view of certain inaccuracies in the motion proposed and carried by Mr. Savage at the March meeting, the Committee decided at their last meeting to take no action in the matter. The Association year now drawing to a close, nominations must be made for the Committee and Officers for next Session. They should be made in writing, and addressed to the Hon. Secretary, who should have them in his possession by May 19th. Notices of motion for the Annual Meeting should also be sent to the Secretary by this date. At the May meeting, two Auditors will be elected to examine the accounts of the past year. Nominations may be handed to the Hon. Secretary at the commencement of the proceedings.

Difficulty having frequently been experienced in securing a convenient meeting place for Committee and sometimes ordinary meetings, the Committee have, as an experiment, engaged a room at the St. Bride Foundation Institute, Bride Lane, E.C., to be at their disposal for a certain number of evenings. If the arrangement proves satisfactory, some more definite action may be taken in the matter.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

APRIL MEETING.

This meeting was held on April 21st in the Reference Library, Manchester, Mr. J. H. Swann presiding, when Mr. E. G. Rees' paper, "The Educational Needs of Library Assistants," was read by the Chairman. The discussion was taken up by Messrs. Haworth, Gordon, T. Smith, Swann, Quarmby and Dallimore.

The feeling of the meeting, as evinced by the brisk discussion was that the technical and business side of librarianship ought to form the principal element of any professional instruction by means of classes—correspondence or otherwise.

The literary side has a profusion of text-books, etc., by means of which private study can in some measure be undertaken; consequently what small amount of spare time is available for

* See "Library Association Record," February, 1903.

attendance at classes should be occupied with subjects for which no text-books exist. Unfortunately in all Summer School schemes, classes, and the Library Association professional examination the literary and bibliographical element is always overwhelmingly large in proportion to the technical and business.

MAY MEETING.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20th, at 7.30 p.m., in the Blackley Branch Library, Manchester. Cars from High Street, corner Market Street, to the Library door. The subject chosen for discussion is the chapter on Public Libraries in Zueblin's "American Municipal Progress."

1903 Subscriptions to the North-Western Branch are now due and should be forwarded at once to the Treasurer (Mr. W. Crompton, Y.M.C.A., 56 Peter Street, Manchester).

MANCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, APRIL 2ND AND 3RD, 1903.

Fifty years of the Public Library movement includes the development of Free Libraries from their birth to the present day, and the Manchester Jubilee Commemoration constitutes the first great historical landmark in their progress. It was only fitting, then, that this should be celebrated in a manner worthy of its importance; and that this was the case is easily shown when we refer to the illustrious names of those who took part in the proceedings.

Arrangements made for the guests included their reception; visits to the Branch Libraries and other places of special interest; but the two most important functions were the speeches in the Whitworth Hall, Owens College, and the Manchester Free Trade Hall. The former meeting was held in the morning, April 3rd, when, after a congratulatory message from the King, significant and important utterances were made by Councillor Plummer, Chairman of the Manchester Free Libraries Committee, Professor Macneile Dixon, Mr. Tennant, M.P., Sir F. Bridge, Professor Boyd Dawkins, Dr. A. Hopkinson, Sir J. C. Browne and others, including Dr. Garnett, who emphasised the necessity for paying librarians more adequate salaries in relation to the educational importance of their work.

It was the evening meeting, however, which stirred the hearts of library enthusiasts, and its only parallel in Manchester is the Public Library Inauguration Movement in 1852, when the first Public Library was opened. A sense of continuity and connection, a link with the past, was happily given by the

presence of Earl Lytton, whose speech included a flattering testimony of Manchester's loyalty to the Public Library movement.

The first speech was delivered by Lord Avebury, who dwelt on the advantages of reading and the solid work now being done by free libraries. He said we must not be too apt to judge the result of this by the apparent large issue of novels, but must remember that more serious works took much longer to read, and therefore showed badly by a mere statistical comparison. The Bishop of Manchester followed by a cheerful, homely address, carrying the audience entirely with him as he spoke on the value of reading to himself and what it could easily be to the working man. He raised the audience to a very high pitch of enthusiasm, which remained the prevailing tone for the rest of the evening. Miss Burstall spoke of the importance of libraries in educating and interesting women, giving a very impressive speech. She was followed by Sir J. C. Browne, who pointed out the value of free libraries as the natural means by which men can exercise all the faculties of their brains and thus protect themselves from the atrophy threatened by the concentration of one faculty alone on some special branch of work. Other speakers followed, and the proceedings closed after a very stirring meeting.

Many beautifully illuminated addresses of congratulation were presented to the Committee, amongst which was one from the Library Association.

F. W. B. H.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A meeting of the Society of Public Librarians was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., on Wednesday evening, April 1st, when Mr. Frank E. Chennell (Willesden Green) read a paper entitled, "Some notes on Public Library Committees." In the course of his paper Mr. Chennell spoke of the differently constituted bodies which now form the Library Committee, viz.: Library Commissioners, the Urban or Borough Council which takes entire control, and the other method whereby the Committee is composed one half of members of the local authority and one half of co-opted members. The latter, Mr. Chennell thought, formed the ideal Library Committee, inasmuch as the co-opted members in most cases had a long and intimate association with the Library. They were often concerned in the movement for the adoption of the Act; they were acquainted with the history of the building, and with the slow and steady

growth of the Library as a book world; and, therefore, the better able to judge the needs of the Library, and certainly the more capable of appreciating all that is good in the Librarian. Coming to the other half of this composite committee, the Council representatives, Mr. Chennell held that these should in every respect hold briefs for the governing authority. They have to watch and to advise concerning the finances, and to see that no expenditure is incurred that cannot be sanctioned, or to which the Local Government auditor may take exception. After touching upon the various types of committee-men and the value of each in the management of the Library, Mr. Chennell dealt with the duty of the Librarian towards his committee, pointing out that the well-being, the usefulness, and the popularity of the institution depends mainly upon the relationship existing between the Library Committee and the Librarian. Mr. Chennell said that the chief aim, the chief duty, should be not so much to please as to inspire confidence, though sometimes difficult to accomplish, and requiring a vast amount of patience and tact. When once gained, however, it was not easily to be shaken.

LIBRARY BASEMENTS.

Many Library basements are the repositories of a heterogeneous mass of worn out or disused appliances and waste paper, but the authorities of the Minet Library, Camberwell, have hit upon the happy idea of putting a number of miniature forms and tables in their basement for the use of young people between the ages of seven and fourteen years. The boys are separated from the girls by means of a partition. Lining one wall are book shelves holding 1,400 vols. suitable for young intellects. A counter runs in front of these shelves, over which the books are issued by two junior members of the staff, who keep a certain amount of order. There are no "Silence" notices to depress the feelings of the readers, and it is better so, as the youngsters often draw each others notice to interesting things in their reading.

A novel feature is the Drawing Room. This is not a room for afternoon tea, but drawing books are supplied and the children are allowed to draw under the supervision of one of the juniors. Needless to say that the rooms are well patronised and the clean, happy, intelligent faces form an inspiring sight. Probably many a Library has a well-lighted basement, easy of access, which could be used in this way at little cost instead of remaining a wilderness.

W. L. C.

THE EDUCATIONAL BASIS OF THE FREE LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

BY FRED W. B. HAWORTH.

[*A Paper read at the March Meeting of the N.W. Branch.*]

At practically all the meetings of this Association I have attended, and in many conversations I have had with library assistants, I have been struck with the pessimism amongst them with regard to library work, and their apparent failure to understand the fundamental basis on which the Free Library Movement stands, *i.e.*, education. I do not know that it is altogether my purpose to discuss the causes of this pessimism, &c., real as I believe them to be; but what I really do wish to bring out is that the Free Library Movement ought to be educational, progressive, and ideal, and to endeavour to show you that in the past a number of serious-minded men did not fear to speak out in decisive terms what it was they expected this movement to stand for and what should be its aims.

To understand it in its natural significance it is necessary to take a backward step, historically speaking, and clearly understand what the pioneers of Free Libraries intended, and on what lines they expected them to develop, and, further, what was their attitude of mind towards the movement generally. Going back some fifty odd years we find, even in such a dry, matter-of-fact volume as "The Report of the Select Committee on Public Libraries, 1849," quite a number of passages relative to the purpose of this paper. For instance, on page 8 of the Report it says, speaking of the development of lecturing, then much in fashion, "The lecturer himself frequently needs the assistance of books. His hearers naturally wish to pursue, by means of books, the subject on which his lectures have interested or instructed them. The power of access to standard works would tend to render the lecturer less superficial, and to promote investigation among his hearers." Again, mentioning the 'increase of classical publications,' "The tendency towards popular publications in Great Britain—the result in a great degree of our superior capital and enterprise—would seem not only to facilitate, but to invite, the formation of public libraries. It is also truly observed that the establishment of such depositories of standard literature would lessen, or perhaps entirely destroy, the influence of frivolous, unsound, and dangerous works. Your Committee are glad to take this opportunity of echoing an opinion expressed by M. Van de Weyer: 'I should positively say that first-rate books ought to be put in the hands of the people instead of inferior publications. They enjoy and feel the beauties of the higher class of literature as deeply as any literary man; as in our theatres they applaud the very passages which a literary man would most admire.' This opinion is strongly confirmed by Mr. Imray, even as regards the readers in the libraries of our ragged schools. Mr. Imray is asked, 'When they (the frequenters of such libraries) read the better class of books, do they prefer them to the books you have spoken of (the inferior books)?' Answer: 'So much so that I do not think they would ever return to the lower class of books after having read the other (the better) books.' Shall we, therefore, abandon the people to the influence of a low, enfeebling, and often pestilential literature, instead of enabling them to breathe a more pure, elevated, and congenial atmosphere?"

Also, on page 11, we have the following: "By such means (the formation of village libraries) the frivolous or unprincipled books which now circulate among our rural population, may be replaced by sound, healthy, and genuinely English literature. The people may be taught many lessons which concern their material (as well as their moral and religious) welfare.

The cleanliness and ventilation of their dwellings, habits of providence, of temperance, a taste for something better than mere animal enjoyment, may be instilled into them through the instrumentality of well-chosen books."

The Minutes of Evidence, following the Report, afford much that is noteworthy in support of the educational value—or what was then supposed would be the educational value—of Public Libraries. To make a large number of extracts would be exceedingly tedious, however interesting, so I have contented myself by making only one, which is from the evidence given by Mr. Ewart and part of a letter written by Mr. John Bathgate, secretary to the Peebles Institution. It is as follows: "It is impossible to estimate the benefit which will ultimately accrue to the population from the (Peebles Public) library. There are several young men of humble parents who are educating themselves as students of divinity and teachers, to whom such a repository of historical works and general literature must be of great service in prosecuting their studies privately. The establishment of a public library in a country district affords the means of self-instruction to such as are desirous to rise from the condition in which they may be originally placed. It affords the means also of encouraging a taste for reading, and thereby weaning the young men from many of the destructive pursuits in which, if left occupied in their leisure moments, they are too apt to be engaged. Their morals are improved, and they again re-act on their families and the society of the place generally, with a salutary effect. . . . It has been said that legislation on this subject is unnecessary; that the elevation of the people ought to begin with themselves to be effectual. It is true that any efforts for the amendment of the masses will be to a great extent inoperative if not supported by them. But it is equally true that the initiative must be taken by those above them. The hand must be held out to them before they will attempt or be able to rise. It may be urged as the duty of a paternal Government to depart occasionally from the negative system pursued in this country, and render positive assistance to the people in giving them ample opportunity to enlarge their minds, improve their time, and become better members of society by gratifying the inherent desire for information which exists in every man more or less, and only requires to be called into exercise to be increased and strengthened."

Mr. Dawson, at a later date, 1866, speaking at the opening of the the Birmingham Reference Library, gave utterance to many striking thoughts descriptive of the power and use of libraries. He said, amongst other things, "Thus, whether I take it as a question of utility, of pastime, or of high discipline, I find the library—with but one or two exceptions—the most blessed place that man has fashioned or framed. The man who is fond of books is usually a man of lofty thought, of elevated opinions. A library is a strengthener of all that is great in life and the repeller of what is petty and mean; and half the gossip of society would perish if the books that are truly worth reading were but read. . . . But as we cannot dwell upon all the uses and beauties of a library let us pass on to see that this is a Corporation Library, and in that we see one of the greatest and happiest things about it, for a library supported as this is, by rates, and administered by a Corporation, is the expression of a conviction on your part that a town like this exists for moral and intellectual purposes. It is a proclamation that a great community like this is not to be looked upon as a fortuitous concourse of human atoms, or as a miserable knot of vipers struggling in a pot, each aiming to get his head above the other in the fierce struggle of competition. It is a declaration that the Corporation of a great town like this has not done all its

duty when it has put in action a set of ingenious contrivances for cleaning and lighting the streets, for breaking stones, for mending ways; and has not fulfilled its highest functions even when it has given the people of the town the best system of drainage. Beyond all these the Corporation of a borough like this has every function to discharge that is discharged by the master of a household—to minister to men by every office, that of the priest excepted. And mark this; I would rather a great book or a great picture fell into the hands of a Corporation than into the hands of an individual. For the moment you put great works into the hands of a corporate body like this you secure permanence of guardianship in passionless keeping."

May I now turn your attention for a few moments to Mr. Greenwood's "Place of Public Libraries in our National Life"? In it he says, "The higher life of the citizen has received too little attention and the lower and baser life seems to have absorbed all the sympathy and care of the authorities. But we have touched the fringe of better days, and soon no municipality or local governing body will be considered complete unless it has under its administration a library and a museum, as well as a work-house, a prison, and the preservers of law and order. It is for the provision for this higher national life that this place is made, and upon municipalities is urged the need of giving the fullest and best attention to this question. The fact should be emphasized that the municipality can do for the people in the way of libraries and museums what cannot possibly be done by private enterprise. . . . The public library movement, however, represents the determination of the community to offer special facilities for the cultivation of the mind, at the expense of the community itself. The educational welfare of the multitude has, at length, become a matter of importance to us all. There has been a revolution of public opinion as to the true functions of public libraries. For a time they may be said to have had only a slight relation to the life of the community, but the authorities are now ready to acknowledge that success or failure is to be measured by the extent to which they come in contact with, and shape for good, the mental life of the nation."

Let us consider the question in this light—"the mental life of the nation." You may urge that there are many libraries throughout the country which are simply fiction-lending institutions, and could be very questionably supposed to be adding stimulus to the national mental life. Yes, but I would remind you these are not the only ones; and it ought never to be forgotten that the utility of large municipal libraries, such as Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester, can be carried out to a greater or lesser degree in these smaller libraries. That is provided you have the educational nucleus in their vicinity, in the shape of a good committee and so forth, and a broad-minded, well-educated man as librarian. For here, as in any other place, the subtle individuality of a man of culture and refinement, striving for what he believes to be of vital importance, will, unless he is tied down by the exigencies of non-expansive authority, permeate library, staff, and borrowers in such a manner as shall conduce to education of the highest and deepest kind.

It is a mistake, I think, to consider education as only of one order. Indeed, it were a poor look out for some of us if this were so. But it consists neither in commercial acumen nor stereotyped professionalism; nay, rather such ideal educational reformers as Froebel, Pestalozzi, and Ruskin have placed it in very different, and what would now be regarded as very homely objects; and yet, it is by cultivation of these very objects that a man is most likely to be of service, to the many people he will come in contact with, as librarian.

I would make the call to us library assistants of the very highest order, and lay the deepest stress on the value of our work; for in us, if we do our work well, lies the safeguard of the Free Library movement in the future. Even now, as I write, a controversy is silently waging in the *Manchester Guardian*, and, perhaps, even more powerfully in the mind of many a humble citizen, calling attention to the fact that the movement, so far as it affects the working classes, is falling away from the high aspirations of its founders. It would be idle of me to suggest for one moment that the cause of this lay in the hands of its present administrators; because I believe the root of the evil to be far deeper seated, and vested in the complex machinery of our social life, which, despite its complexity, is quite inadequate to carry out the schemes of social reformers, either past or present. But the question becomes a vital one if we wish to remain in the library world, and needs our whole-heartedness and broadest sympathies if we are to help to re-establish the fundamental value of our work.

I know, only too well, that to many of us the outlook has often appeared gloomy, but—and the whole weight of the question bears on this—are you interested in your work? Does it tend to bring out the best within you? Old-fashioned notions these, you may think, but, nevertheless, the soundest you can apply to judge yourself and your work by. If I put the question to myself, I reply immediately in the affirmative, when I am permitted to come in contact with the higher branches of the work; for then my interest and sympathies being fully aroused, I feel the pride one has a right to feel, and can look forward with hope. But, if I am always to be regarded as a mere mechanical appliance, with no opportunity to lift up my eyes to the hills, then I say "No," and so ought every library assistant who respects himself and wishes to respect his occupation.

You will see that I have made this paper very personal. What else could I do to bring the matter out in its proper light, believing the vocation of the library assistant to be very vital to the welfare of the Library Movement? Let us remember that we stand measured by a very high standard, if we are to aid and contribute to the development of "the mental life of the nation." Let us search and know ourselves from every point of view, seeking by organisation, education, and frankness, to mould public opinion, library committees, and library associations, to that great and high ideal, the education of the people, prophesied and looked forward to by the pioneers of Public Free Libraries. And, if at any time we falter, let us remember it is not the nobleness of our calling which is at fault, but the controlling power of some outside force that has not yet learnt, or been allowed to learn, the fulness of the larger life. We, who are yet young and unaffected by the pessimism of stagnation, ought to carry on the work to the best of our ability, and leave its position clear and well defined for those who follow after us.

Do not misunderstand me by thinking I expect these attributes of library assistants are easy to acquire. I do not. I know too well the difficulties in the way, such as long hours, small pay, and limited opportunity for self-improvement. Yet, in spite of all these obstacles, if we really make up our minds to succeed, I think we can influence far more than at first sight one would imagine. The great key, admitting us to a deeper interest in our work, is association, companionship. Very often it seems a large sacrifice to attend such meetings as these; but those who do attend them, and those of the Summer School, know their worth and their influence for good in many directions. We know the value of this association, and cherish the comradeship it also brings. It is to such organisations as these one is compelled to look for the moving spirit which is to teach the library assistant his part in the

Library movement and enable him to voice those ambitions and aspirations which are so often liable to be hidden under the lethargy which creeps on through lack of healthy stimulation, and which are far too little helped by the bodies at present controlling public libraries, which bodies in many cases have only insufficiently realised the educational power for which these libraries stand. The uses of this stimulation, or, to be more correct, natural development through association, have been very graphically described by Sir E. M. Thompson, when speaking at the Library Association Meeting, Reading, in 1890. He said: "Upon the practical advantage which is gained by these meetings I need not enlarge. The fact that they are held and are so well attended is sufficient indication of your estimation of their utility. It is not the mere discussion of points of library management, the hearing of papers and the other solemn parts of the business of our meetings which recommend them to your attendance and your attention. It is still more the fact that here you stand face to face, that you interchange ideas, that you see what manner of men you individually are, and that when you part company and separate to your homes you carry back with you a personal knowledge of your fellows, and, I trust, a higher view of your duties and an encouragement to still more strenuous exertions. 'Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friends.'"

In closing let me read these words of Sydney Smith (quoted in Greenwood's "Public Libraries"), which are inscribed upon the walls of more than one Public Library in the United States:—

"Therefore when I say, in conducting your understanding, love knowledge with a great love, with a vehement love, with a love co-eval with life, what do I say but love innocence, love purity—love that which, if you are rich, will sanctify the blind fortune which made you so, and teach men to call it justice—love that which, if you are poor, will make poverty respectable, and forbid the proudest to mock the meanness of your fortune—love that which will comfort and adorn you, and open to you the kingdom of thought and all the boundless regions of conception. Therefore if any young man has embarked his life in the pursuit of knowledge let him go on without doubting the result. Let him not be daunted by her cheerless beginnings, or by the difficulties hovering round her. Let him rather follow her as the angel that guards him, and the genius of his life. She will bring him out at last into the light of day."

STOKE NEWINGTON.

The Borough Council at its meeting on April 21st decided by 17 votes to 3 not to adopt the Museums Act. Our contemporary, the *Library World*, announced in its March issue that the Act *had* been adopted, but its prophecy has not turned out to be very accurate!

STUDY CIRCLE.

The Report on the March questions is held over until next month, when the final Report on the work of the Session will appear.

COTGREAVE PRIZE ESSAYS (1903).

The subjects chosen for this year's competition are as follows :—

Senior:—"The Planning and Arranging of a Public Library."

Not to exceed 2,000 words. Prize, one guinea.

Junior :—"A Description of the various Charging Methods."

Not to exceed 1,000 words, and must not be critical.
Prize, one guinea.

All essays, signed with a pseudonym, accompanied by the real name and address in a sealed envelope, should reach the Hon. Secretary by August 18th. The results will be announced at the inaugural meeting in October.

NEW BOOKS, ETC.

Hampstead Public Libraries: Descriptive Catalogue of the Books.....at the Kilburn Branch Library. 8vo., 165 pp. 1902. (W. E. DOUBLEDAY, Librarian).

We have just received this Catalogue for the L.A.A. Library, it being the first produced on the Monotype Composing Machine. Of course, there is no visible difference in its appearance from any other, but it is distinctly interesting as an example of this machine's capabilities. There are five faces of type used.

Kimberley Public Library: Twentieth Annual Report, 1902. (BERTRAM L. DYER, Librarian).

Shows a very prosperous state of affairs; from one table we observe that the Library has grown from 3,000 volumes in 1883, to 26,551 in 1902, with an annual circulation of 2,388 in the former year, and 40,129 in the latter. There is also a long interesting article on the Library, written by the Librarian, and reprinted from the "Diamond Fields Advertiser."

Morley College Magazine. April.

Revue des Bibliothèques et Archives de Belgique. No. 2. March—April. Mont-St.-Guilbert (Belgium).

This second number is, if anything, an improvement on No. 1. There are several articles of great bibliographical interest; the first, a study of the *Hortus Musarum* of Pierre Phalèse (Louvain, 1552), containing facsimiles, is followed by one on the Archives in the priories of Val-Saint-Martin in Louvain. There is also a sketch of the life and work of Pierre Caron, a bookbinder in Ghent in the 16th century, and an article on the early paintings and engravings of the Tournaisienne School, together with reviews of some recent bibliographical and kindred works, among which is one of Mr. Greenwood's "Edward Edwards." The number concludes with a list of the latest bibliographies in all languages.

Revue Générale de Bibliographie Française. (Schleicher Frères et Cie, 15 Rue des Saints-Peres, Paris. Published every other month ; 7 francs p.a.)

We have received Nos. 1 and 2 (January and March) of this new Review of French Bibliography, and find it interesting and likely to be useful. The Editors complain that it has been difficult to obtain an honest, reliable, unbiassed review of modern publications, and they hope now to supply the reading world with notices of the most important books, which may be accepted with safety. Each review is signed, and is allotted space consistent with the importance of the book under notice. There is also a classified list with all particulars of the latest French literature.

Revista delle Biblioteche e degli archivi. Marzo—Aprile. Firenze.

Contains an illustrated article on book illustrations in Venice in the 17th and 18th centuries, and a continuation of the life of Amerigo Vespucci, of Florence, amongst other interesting matter.

Wigan Free Public Library : Catalogue of Books in the Lending Department. 8vo., 246 pp. 1903. (H. T. FOLKARD, Librarian).

A new edition, containing upwards of 26,000 entries, representing nearly 15,000 vols. The matter is arranged in double columns, and the charge made of sixpence, must be considerably below cost price. It is compiled on the dictionary plan, and makes a sensible, serviceable, informative guide to the Library.

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